

BUCKHURST HILL

Urban District Council.

THE


ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

for 1910.

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BUCKHURST HILL
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF
THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,
For the Year ending December 31st, 1910.

During the past twelve months the general health of the District has been good, both the Death rate and the Infantile Mortality Rate being the lowest on record, the Birth Rate being slightly under the average for the past ten years. There was one case less of Infectious Disease notified this year than last. Details of the above will be given under their several sections.

I. PHYSICAL FEATURES AND GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS
OF THE DISTRICT.

The District is situated on the ridge of land between the valleys of the Rivers Roding and Ching, the greater portion facing the valley of the Roding.

The subsoil is principally stiff clay, with here and there pockets of gravel of varying size, a large bed of gravel in the Roding valley providing a supply for keeping the roads in the District in repair.

The area of the District is about 899 acres (exclusive of areas covered by water and including about 150 acres of Forest land and Roads).

The highest point of the District is 271 feet, and the lowest about 45 feet above sea level.

The District is principally a residential one.

II. HOUSE ACCOMMODATION.

During the past year the Luctons Estate has been further developed, a new road having been made, with soil and storm water sewers. Building has been progressing

on the above estate—one house has been built and four are nearing completion on the property ; and one has been built on the Russell House Estate.

The Housing and Town Planning Act came into force in the early part of the year, and whether as a result of this or for some other reason, a great many of the cottages let at less than £16 a year have been put into thorough repair.

Six houses were inspected under the provisions of this Act, and up to the end of the year it was not found necessary to serve any statutory notices in order to get repairs carried out.

The houses of the working classes of a greater value than £16 are in the majority of cases kept in fair repair and are seldom unoccupied, but a few might be considerably improved. Two houses were put in habitable repair.

No action has been taken under the Housing of the Working Classes Act.

No house-to-house inspection has been made during the year.

III. SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

The Council's Sewage Works, situated on the Banks of the Roding, take the sewage from the Eastern slope of the hill, that from the Western slope being treated at Woodford Western Works.

The Council's Works consists of two settling tanks, primary, secondary and sprinkler filter beds, a storm overflow bed, and about 14 acres for treating resulting effluent.

The experimental Sprinkler mentioned in my last report has been working well, and producing a satisfactory effluent for several months past.

One secondary filter bed has been cleaned out and repacked, and it is proposed to extend the use of the sprinkler to two further beds.

With reference to the Western Works, a "Humus" Tank has been put down during the year to collect the suspended matter, and the effluent obtained is very satisfactory.

During the year the drains of nine houses have been re-laid and 18 amended.

The alterations made to sewers in Russell Road last year have completely done away with the floods which used to occur at the bottom of Westbury Road during heavy rain storms.

The Sewer in High Road, which was found to be very defective, has been taken up and re-laid.

IV. REMOVAL OF HOUSE REFUSE.

House refuse is collected by the Council's men once a week throughout the year. $2,298\frac{3}{4}$ yards have been removed.

One complaint with regard to removal of dust was received during the year, which was accounted for by the tenant being out when the dustman called.

V. WATER SUPPLY.

All houses in the District obtain their water supply from the Metropolitan Water Board, from deep artesian wells at Waltham Abbey and Chingford Mill.

The water is hard, but the supply is constant and adequate.

All houses in the District, except about four, have water laid on, and the Landlord has been approached with reference to laying on supplies to these houses, which at present receive their supply from a stand pipe.

VI. BAKEHOUSES, DAIRIES, AND SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

The Bakehouses, Dairies, and Slaughterhouses have been regularly inspected by the Sanitary Inspector, and at varying intervals by myself.

The Bakehouses have been kept in a clean and satisfactory manner, and have been whitewashed at regular intervals.

The Milk supply of the District is good. The Cow-sheds and Dairies within the District have always been found on inspection to be clean, and I am pleased to be able to state that an effort is being made by the Cow Keepers to reduce to a minimum the chances of contamination of the milk, by such means as washing the cows udders and even in some cases clipping the udders, flanks and hind quarters of the cows.

There are three Slaughterhouses in the District, two only of which are used to any extent; neither the Sanitary Inspector or myself have detected any Tuberculous cattle being slaughtered, nor has any carcase, or part of a carcase, been seized on account of Tubercle or other disease.

No unsound food seized during the year.

VII. NUISANCES.

There were nine complaints received, and 35 nuisances detected without complaint.

No formal notices were served; 41 of the 44 nuisances were abated; one outstanding at the end of 1909 has been dealt with; three were receiving attention at the end of the year.

VIII. OFFENSIVE TRADES AND LODGING HOUSES.

None in District.

IX. SCHOOLS.

The Medical Officer appointed by the Essex County Council Education Committee examined the children in the Public Elementary Schools during the year.

The Schools are supplied with water from the Metropolitan Water Board.

The Closet accommodation in course of construction at the St. John's Schools at the beginning of the year is completed.

The Sanitary arrangements of the Schools are good.

X. INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

If we include the one case of Phthisis notified under Notification of Phthisis order, 1908 (Poor Law), there have been the same number of cases of Infectious Disease notified this year as there were last, namely twenty-five. Of these sixteen were removed to the Waltham Joint Hospital, one of these latter, a case of Typhoid, unfortunately did not recover; thirteen out of sixteen cases of Scarlet Fever were removed to Hospital.

An outbreak of German Measles occurred early in November and lasted till the end of December, a considerable fall in the school attendance during these months being thereby accounted for.

Only two deaths from Phthisis were registered during the year, as against eight during 1909. Disinfection of premises was carried out in both cases.

Notification of Phthisis has not been adopted in the District.

There is no Hospital accommodation for cases of Phthisis, either early or advanced. One notification of a pauper case of Phthisis was received during the year.

Disinfection after cases of Infectious Disease is carried out by means of Formalin and spraying in the case of Rooms ; Clothes, Bedding, etc., are disinfected in a Steam Disinfecter.

XI. RAINFALL.

The rainfall for the year was not so great as last year, but in excess of that for 1908.

Lat., 51 deg. 37 min. 30 sec. N. Long., 0 deg. 2 min. 5 sec. E.

		1909.	1910.
January	...	0·72 inches.	1·54 inches.
February	...	0·77 „	2·60 „
March	..	2·52 „	0·89 „
April	1·70 „	1·27 „
May	1·42 „	2·01 „
June	3·97 „	3·44 „
July	3·44 „	2·31 „
August	...	1·97 „	2·23 „
September	...	2·40 „	0·83 „
October	...	3·96 „	2·13 „
November	...	0·85 „	3·20 „
December	...	2·68 „	3·31 „
Total		26·40 „	25·76 „

XII. BIRTH AND DEATH RATE.

The Birth Rate although slightly higher than that for 1909 is still below the average for the past ten years, being 19·6 for 1910 ; 18·3 for 1909, and 21·29 for average of past ten years.

The total number of Deaths registered in the District, namely 41, was the lowest on record, except that for 1907, when 40 only were registered, the average for the past ten years being 57.

After deducting the six deaths of non-residents which happened in Public Institutions in the District, and adding three deaths which took place in the Workhouse, the nett

deaths of all ages belonging to the District are only 38, which gives the extremely low Death Rate of 7·01 per 1000, only equal to about half that for England and Wales.

Seventeen of the deaths were of people of 65 years and upwards.

The deaths from Phthisis, Cancer and Senile Decay are as follows for the past years :—

	1909.	1910.
Phthisis ...	1·3 per 1000	·37 per 1000
Cancer .	1·8 „	1·1 „
Senile Decay ...	1·7 „	·7 „

XIII. INFANTILE MORTALITY.

The Infantile Mortality for 1910 is the lowest on record, only three Deaths under one year having occurred, giving a Death Rate equal to 28·5 per 1000 births, and that for 1909 being 61·8 per 1000. Neither of the deaths being due to preventable causes.

No death from summer Diarrhœa was registered during the year.

XIV. FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

These have been systematically visited by the Sanitary Inspector, and from time to time by myself. In one case only an abstract was found not to be exhibited.

The Register of Factories and Workshops is as follows :—

FACTORIES.	WORKSHOPS.	DOMESTIC WORKSHOPS.
1 Printer.	4 Builders.	1 Dressmaker.
1 Brick.	1 Stonemason.	6 Cobblers.
	5 Blacksmiths.	1 Tailor.
	2 Cycle Makers.	
	1 Harness Maker.	
	2 Upholsterers.	
BAKEHOUSES.	1 Coachbuilder.	
4 Retail.	6 Dressmakers.	
	2 Laundries.	
	2 Shoemakers and Repairers.	
	1 Spice Merchant.	

I estimate the population at 5,350.

Mr. Heath, the Sanitary Inspector, has carried out his duties to my entire satisfaction. A summary of the work done by him, together with Tables I, III, IV, and V, required by the Local Government Board, are appended.

CHAS. R. DYKES, M.R.C.S. & L.R.C.P.,
Medical Officer of Health.

TABLES OF POPULATION, BIRTH, AND OF CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1910 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

Year	1900	1901	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909	Average for last 10 years	1910
Population estimated to middle of each year ...	4700	4786	4900	5000	5050	5050	5150	5200	5300	5300	5043	5350
Number of Births ...	113	114	100	113	116	110	98	104	106	97	107	105
Birth Rate	24·04	23·81	20·41	22·60	22·97	21·78	19·02	20·5	20·00	18·3	21·29	19·6
Deaths under 1 year of age	11	13	11	10	8	12	8	5	20	6	10	3
Infantile Death Rate per 1000 Births registered	97·34	114·0	110·0	88·4	68·9	109·0	81·6	48·0	188·6	61·8	96·76	28·5
Total Deaths at all ages	63	53	58	46	53	63	47	40	84	64	57	41
Death Rate	13·40	11·07	11·84	9·20	10·49	12·47	9·12	7·6	15·84	12·07	11·31	7·6
Deaths in Public Insti- tutions in District ...	7	8	7	6	12	6	8	12	13	13	9	9
Deaths of Non-residents in Public Institutions registered in District...	—	6	2	5	11	5	5	6	9	8	6	6
Deaths of Residents in Public Institutions reg- istered beyond District	—	1	5	3	3	2	10	6	1	9	4	3
Nett Deaths at all ages	63	48	61	44	45	60	52	40	76	65	55	38
Nett Death Rate ...	13·40	10·02	12·45	8·80	8·91	11·88	10·97	7·6	14·34	12·26	11·06	7·01

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water) 899
 Total Population at all ages 4,786
 Number of Inhabited Houses 916
 Average Number of Persons per House 5·22
 Lowest Level of Land in District above Ordnance Level 45·00 feet.
 Highest Level of Land in District above Ordnance Level 270 feet.
 Population—Estimated to middle of 1910 5,350.

Subsoil almost entirely clay, with pockets of gravel in higher parts, and also a bed
of gravel in the valley covered with alluvial soil.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1910.

Notifiable Diseases.	At all Ages.	Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65	Total cases removed to Hospital.
Diphtheria	3	—	—	2	1	—	2
Erysipelas	4	—	—	—	—	4	—
Scarlet Fever	16	—	6	8	2	—	13
Enteric Fever	1	—	—	—	1	—	1
Phthisis (pauper case) ...	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
Totals	25	—	6	10	4	5	16

Isolation Hospital—Waltham Joint Hospital, Waltham Abbey.

Total available beds, 40.

Number of Diseases that can be concurrently treated, 4.

CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1910.

Causes of Death.	All Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and up- wards.	Deaths in Public Institu- tions.
Whooping Cough	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Epidemic Influenza	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Phthisis, Pulmonary Tuberculosis	2	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Cancer, malignant Disease ...	6	—	—	—	—	3	3	1
Bronchitis	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Pneumonia	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	2
Premature Birth	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Heart Diseases	6	—	—	—	—	3	3	3
Kidney Disease	2	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Tetanus	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Senile Decay	4	—	—	—	—	—	4	—
All other causes ..	9	1	—	1	—	4	3	2
All Causes ...	38	3	2	1	1	14	17	9

INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1910.

DEATHS FROM STATED CAUSES IN WEEKS AND MONTHS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

Causes of Death.	Under 1 Week.	Total under 1 Month.	3-4 Months.	5-6 Months.	Total Deaths under 1 Year.
All causes certified	1	1	1	1	3
,, uncertified	—	—	—	—	—
Premature Birth	1	1	—	—	1
Congenital Defects	—	—	1	—	1
Other causes	—	—	—	—	1
Total	1	1	1	1	3

Births in the year	{	Legitimate	100
	{	Illegitimate	5
Deaths in the year...	{	Legitimate infants ...	3
	{	Illegitimate infants ...	—

Death from all causes at all ages, 38.

SUMMARY OF WORK

Done through the **SANITARY INSPECTOR** in the
Urban Sanitary District of Buckhurst Hill during
the Year ending December 31st, 1910.

Complaints received	9
Nuisances detected without complaint	35
Nuisances abated	42
Notices Served	
Summons taken out	
Convictions	
Cottages inspected	4
" " under the Housing and Town Planning Act ...	6
Lodging-houses inspected (none in district)	
Slaughter-houses (three in district) visits	49
Bakehouses inspected (four in district)	49
Dairies, Milkshops, and Cowsheds (five in district)	104
Workshops and Workplaces	105
Factories	14
Filthy Houses cleansed, sec. 46 Public Health Act, 1875...	
Houses disinfected	24
Overcrowding abated... ..	
Houses placed in habitable repair	2
Houses closed... ..	
Wells sunk or improved supplies of water afforded	
Wells cleansed or repaired	
Wells closed	2
Cesspools done away with	3
Houses connected with sewers	7
" " " water mains	4
Earth, pail, or improved Privies constructed, or existing Privies altered; Privies and W.C.'s repaired; W.C.'s supplied with water	4
Cisterns cleansed, repaired, or covered, or water supply otherwise amended	5
Drains entirely relaid... ..	9
Drains amended	18
Dustbins Repaired or Renewed	1
Sundry nuisances abated	
Animals improperly kept	1
Samples of water taken for Analysis	
Compensation paid for destruction of Infected Book	1
Seizures of unsound Meat, etc.	

The total number of visits paid with reference to nuisances, dustbins, to workshops, workplaces and factories, dairies and slaughter-houses, has been 859.

The house refuse is collected weekly, There were $2298\frac{3}{4}$ yards collected in 1910.

(Signed) J. T. HEATH, A.R.S.I.,

Inspector of Nuisances.

